

# Website Accessibility Checklist

The information presented within this checklist is aimed at website owners seeking to learn the ropes of web accessibility. Technical elements are described in layperson's terms, and, as a rule, all topics pertaining to the legalities of web accessibility are presented in as simple a manner as possible. This checklist has no legal bearing, and cannot be relied on in the case of [litigation](#).

Here are some of the most important action items you will need to address to conform to the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 at Level AA](#), and present an accessible website:

- Allow for [keyboard-only navigation](#):**  
Ensure all website functions can be performed using a keyboard alone
- Ensure full compatibility with assistive technology like [screen readers](#):**  
This will require code-based changes (such as adding [ARIA labels](#)), and can be more easily achieved using a web accessibility tool, like [accessWidget](#)
- Use highly contrasting colors:**  
Utilize color schemes with high contrast to make text and images more readable for people with vision impairments, like color blindness and [low vision](#)
- Add alt text to meaningful images:**  
Include descriptive [alt text](#) to meaningful images to convey their purpose and content to screen readers. Non-meaningful images (i.e., decorative images) should be hidden from [assistive technology](#)
- Use proper heading structures:**  
Implement a logical and hierarchical heading structure (H1, H2, H3, etc.) to improve navigation and understanding for all users. Add tags; don't simply increase and bold text size

- Include captions and transcripts for videos:**  
Provide [captions](#) and transcripts for meaningful video content
  
- Design accessible forms:**  
Ensure forms are easily navigable and usable with labels, instructions, and error messages that are clear and accessible
  
- Maintain responsive and flexible design:**  
Design your website to be flexible and responsive, working well on a variety of devices and screen sizes
  
- Avoid using color as the only means of conveying information:**  
Use additional indicators like text or icons to ensure that information is not lost on people who have [color blindness](#)
  
- Use descriptive URLs and link text:**  
Create URLs and link text that are meaningful and descriptive, helping website visitors understand their destination
  
- Ensure consistent navigation:**  
Keep the navigation structure consistent across your website to help users easily find and predict the location of content
  
- Allow for content to be increased and decreased in size:**  
Ensure that text and other content can be resized without losing functionality or readability
  
- Try to avoid auto-replaying media:**  
Avoid auto-playing media, as it can be disruptive and interfere with assistive technologies
  
- Use simple and clear language:**  
Write content in a straightforward and understandable manner to accommodate users with cognitive disabilities.
  
- Include an accessibility statement:**  
Provide an [accessibility statement](#) outlining your commitment to accessibility and ways website visitors can report issues or seek assistance

- Ensure your website does not feature content that can induce seizures:**  
Avoid using flashing or blinking content that can trigger seizures in people with photosensitive epilepsy
  
- Make sure your online documents are accessible:**  
Ensure PDFs and other [online documents are accessible](#), with proper tagging and structure
  
- Regularly update and maintain accessibility features:**  
Continuously monitor, test, and update your website to maintain and improve accessibility standards

**Click here to see if your website conforms  
to WCAG using  accessScan**

accessScan is a free web accessibility testing tool that checks for compliance with the world's leading web accessibility legislation, including the ADA, AODA, and Section 508

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